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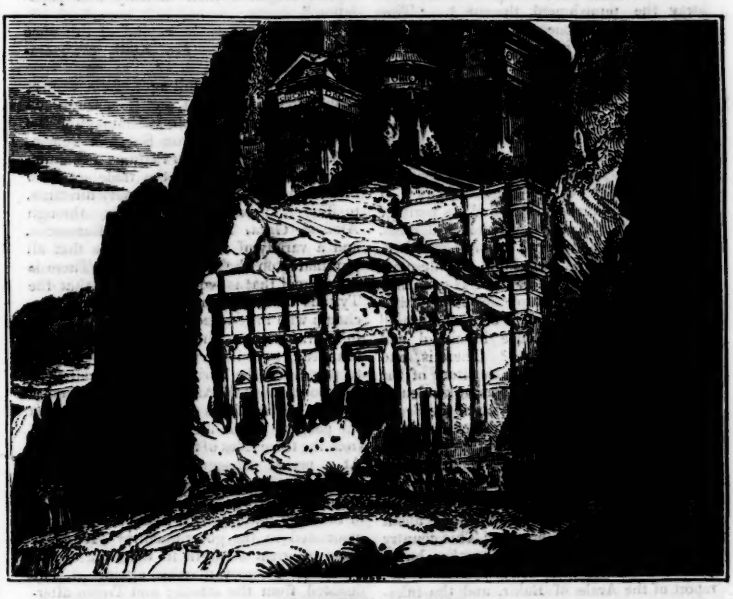


CORINTHIAN TOMB.

This is an impressive scene of magnificent decay. It affords the reader a glimpse of the desolation of one of the proudest cities of antiquity—Petra, the capital of Edom or Seir, the Idumea, or Arabia Petræa of the Greeks, the Nabatea, considered by geographers, historians, and poets, as the source of all the precious commodities of the East.

Of Edom, or Idumea, little appears to have been known till within the last fifty years, from the researches of European travellers. The mention of the district in the Bible is of such frequent occurrence as to impress every reader—from the child to him "with spectacles on nose"—with the idea of bitter humiliation: who can ever forget the appalling denouncement, "over Edom will I cast my shoe." The Rev. Mr. Keith says:*

"There are numerous prophecies respecting Idumea, that bear a literal interpretation, however hyperbolical they may appear. '(My sword shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of my curse to judgment.) —From generation to generation it shall lie waste, none shall pass through it for ever and ever. But the cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also and the raven shall dwell in it; and he shall stretch out upon it the line of confusion, and the stones of emptiness. They shall call the nobles thereof to the kingdom, but none shall be there, and all her princes shall be nothing. And thorns shall come up in her palaces, nettles and brambles in the fortresses thereof; and it shall be a habitation of dragons, and a court for owls. The wild beasts of the desert shall also meet with the wild beasts of the island, and the satyr (or hairy creature) shall cry to his fellow; the screech-owl also shall rest there, and find for herself a place of rest. There shall the great owl make her nest, and lay, and hatch, and gather under her shadow; there shall the vultures also be gathered every one with her mate. Seek ye out of the book of the Lord and read; no one of these shall fail, none shall want her mate; for my mouth it hath commanded, and his spirit it hath gathered them. And he hath cast the lot

* Evidence of Prophecy. Tenth Edit. 1833.

for them, and his hand hath divided it unto them by line; they shall possess it for ever, from generation to generation shall they dwell therein."* Again, 'Edom shall be a desolate wilderness.'† 'For three transgressions of Edom, and for four I will not turn away the punishment thereof.'‡ 'Thus saith the Lord concerning Edom, I have made thee small among the heathen, thou art greatly despised. The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high. Shall I not destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau? The house of Jacob shall possess their possessions, but there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau.§ I laid the mountains of Esau and his heritage waste for the dragons of the wilderness. Whereas Edom saith we are impoverished, but we will return and build the desolate places; thus saith the Lord of Hosts, they shall build, but I will throw down; and they shall call them the border of wickedness.'‖ Is there any country once inhabited and opulent, so utterly desolate? There is, and that land is Idumea. The territory of the descendants of Esau affords as miraculous a demonstration of the inspiration of the Scriptures, as the fate of the children of Israel."

It is not a little curious, that Volney, the "infidel," as Mr. Keith designates him, should have been the first among travellers to show how these prophecies have been realized. In his *Travels*, published about the year 1780, he observes: "This country *has not been visited by any traveller*, but it well merits such attention; for, from the report of the Arabs of Bakir, and the inhabitants of Gaza, who frequently go to Maan and Karak, on the road of the pilgrims, there are to the south-east of the lake Asphaltites (Dead Sea,) *within three days' journey*, upwards of thirty ruined towns *absolutely deserted*. Several of them have large edifices, with columns that may have belonged to the ancient temples, or at least to Greek churches. The Arabs sometimes make use of them to fold their cattle in; but in general avoid them on account of the enormous scorpions with which they swarm. We cannot be surprised at these traces of ancient population, when we recollect that this was the country of the Nabatheans, the most powerful of the Arabs, and of the *Idumeans*, who, at the *time of the destruction of Jerusalem*, were almost as numerous as the Jews, as appears from Josephus, who informs us, that on the first rumour of the march of Titus against Jerusalem, thirty thousand Idumeans instantly assembled, and threw themselves into that city for its defence. It appears that besides the advantages of being under a tolerably good government, these districts enjoyed a considerable share of the commerce of Arabia and India, which increased their industry and population."

Petra, then, was the capital of this once important country. Mr. Keith corroboratively observes:

"The caravans, in all ages, from Minea, in the interior of Arabia, and from Gerrha on the Gulph of Persia, from Hadramaut on the ocean, and some even from Sabea or Yemen, appear to have pointed to Petra as a common centre; and from Petra the trade seems to have again branched out into every direction, to Egypt, Palestine, and Syria, through Arsinoe, Gaza, Tyre, Jerusalem, Damascus, and a variety of subordinate routes that all terminated on the Mediterranean. There is every proof that is requisite to show that the Tyrians and Sidonians were the first merchants who introduced the produce of India to all the nations which encircled the Mediterranean, so is there the strongest evidence to prove that the Tyrians obtained all their commodities from Arabia. But if Arabia was the centre of this commerce, Petra¶ was the point to which all the Arabians tended from the three sides of their vast peninsula."** At a period subsequent to the commencement of the Christian era there always reigned at Petra, according to Strabo, a king of the royal lineage, with whom a prince was associated in the government.†† It was a place of great strength in the time of the Romans. Pompey marched against it, but desisted from the attack; and Trajan afterwards besieged it. It was a metropolitan see, to which several bishoprics were attached in the time of the Greek emperors, and Idumea was included in the third Palestine—*Palestina tertia sive salutaris*."

Idumea forms one of the most interesting chapters in Mr. Keith's volume; and his diligence in identifying the country with the inspired language of prophecy has been as successful as unwearied. We have only space to notice one of these predictions, which is peculiarly remarkable as applicable to Idumea, and bears reference to a circumstance explanatory of the difficulty of access to any knowledge respecting it:

"None shall pass through it for ever and ever.—I will cut off from Mount Seir him that passeth out and him that returneth."‡‡ Mr. Keith then quotes illustrative passages

* Isaiah, xxxiv. 5, 10—17.
† Joel iii. 19.
‡ Amos i. 11.
§ Obad. v. 2, 3, 8, 17, 18.
‖ Malachi i. 3, 4.

¶ Agatharchides Huds. p. 57. Pliny, lib. vi. c. 28, quoted by Vincent. Ibid. p. 262.
** Ibid. 260, 261, 262.
†† Strabo. p. 779.
‡‡ Isaiah xxxiv. 10. Ezek. xxxv. 7. The first of these predictions is conjoined with others, the period of whose full completion—the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion—is yet to come.

from Volney, Burckhardt, Jolliffe, Henniker, and Captains Irby and Mangles, who "not only give their personal testimony to the truth of the fact which corroborates the prediction, but also adduce a variety of circumstances, which all conspire in giving superfluity of proof that Idumea, which was long resorted to from every quarter, is so beset on every side with dangers to the traveller, that *none pass through it*. Even the Arabs of the neighbouring regions, whose home is the desert, and whose occupation is wandering, are afraid to enter it, or to conduct any within its borders. Yet amidst all this manifold testimony to its truth, there is not in any single instance the most distant allusion to the prediction; and the evidence is as unsuspicious and undesigned, as it is copious and complete."

It is scarcely possible to afford the reader, in a page or two, any distinct idea of the vastness of Petra. Burckhardt considers the ruins "entitled to rank among the most curious remains of ancient art." Mr. Keith adds:

"Though the city be desolate, the monuments of its opulence and power are durable. These are—a channel on each side of the river, for conveying the water to the city—numerous tombs—above two hundred and fifty sepulchres, or excavations—many mausoleums, one, in particular, of colossal dimensions, in perfect preservation, and a work of immense labour, containing a chamber, sixteen paces square, and above twenty-five feet in height, with a colonnade in front thirty-five feet high, crowned with a pediment highly ornamented, &c.; two large truncated pyramids, and a theatre with all its benches, capable of containing about three thousand spectators, ALL *cut out of the rock*."

Captains Irby and Mangles refer to "the sides of the mountains covered with an endless variety of excavated tombs and private dwellings;" and to prove that THE ROCK applies to Petra, Dr. Vincent observes, "the name of this capital, in all the various languages in which it occurs, implies a rock, and as such it is described in the Scriptures, in Strabo, and Al Edrissi."* And in a note he enumerates among the various names having all the same signification—Sela, a rock, (the very word here used in the original,) Petra, a rock, the Greek name, (which has precisely the same signification,) and The Rock, pre-eminently—expressly referring to this passage of Scripture."†

We pass over many ingenious pages of Mr. Keith's volume to the subject of the Engraving. Thus—"Of all the ruins of Petra, the mausoleums and sepulchres are among the most remarkable, and they give the clearest indication of ancient and long-continued royalty, and of courtly grandeur. Their immense number corroborates the accounts given of their successive kings and princes, by Moses and Strabo; though a period of eighteen hundred years intervened between the dates of their respective records concerning them. The structure of the sepulchres also shows that many of them are of a more recent date."

To Volney we are unquestionably indebted for the earliest reference to Idumea, among modern writers; and the interesting details from personal observation, communicated by Burckhardt, and subsequently by Captains Irby and Mangles, "rescued the subject from obscurity, and brought to light the remarkable fact of the ruins of a city, so to speak, cut out of the rock, in the midst of a desert." Their researches are, at present, in course of illustration, by a work publishing at Paris, entitled, *Voyage de l'Arabie Pétrée, par Mess. Leon de Laborde et Lienant*, with plates of size proportionate to the magnificence of the subjects. From one of these illustrations the annexed Engraving has been reduced. We have not seen the original French work, but, judging from Mr. Keith's observations upon its merits, we consider the subject we have chosen to be one of the most stupendous of the tombs. Mr. Keith describes as engraven on it a Latin inscription, with the name of a magistrate, Quintus Pretextus Florentinus, who died in Petra, being governor of that part of Arabia Petrea. "It behoved to be," it is said, "about the time of Adrian, or Antoninus Pius," or at a period undoubtedly several centuries posterior to the predictions.

Such, however, is but a mere fragment of the ancient glory of Petra; but it is impossible to look upon this vast assemblage of decaying columns and crumbling capitals, without reading in its details a melancholy chapter of the fate and fall of nations; while the finger of prophecy points to the whole site as a sublime lesson on the nothingness of the proudest works of man.

* Commerce of the Ancients, v. ii. p. 264.
† See Blaney, *in loco*.

THE MISSES PORTER.

(To the Editor.)

I HAVE just read, in *Chambers's Edinburgh Journal* of the 11th of May, 1833, a biographic sketch of the celebrated Miss Jane Porter, interspersed with some anecdotes of her brother, the accomplished artist and traveller, Sir Robert Ker Porter. The narrator speaks of the lady as having made her literary *debut* by the publication of *Thaddeus of Warsaw*, a romance, in four volumes.

If I may be permitted to trace the first buddings of her truly accomplished mind, I must say that I have perused several of Miss Jane Porter's effusions, written antecedent to the publication above mentioned. The first flowers of her intellect are to be found in the

Lady's Pocket Magazine—a work edited by its publisher, the late Mr. John Harrison, of No. 18, Paternoster Row, and which first appeared, as well as another work by the same proprietor, entitled the *Pocket Magazine*, in 1794; and during their progress, their pages were frequently enlivened with several pleasing contributions from the pen of this lady, as well as that of her equally clever sister, Miss Anna Maria Porter, in the shape of various pleasing, light tales, confirmed, as the reader may find, by their respective signatures.

Anna Maria, the younger of the "gifted two," frequently exercised her talents in poetry, as well as prose, in these works, as well as in another contemporary publication, edited by the late Dr. Evans, author of *The Denominations of the Christian World*, entitled *The Monthly Visiter*; whereas the more staid, and perhaps less excursive mind of Miss Jane P., I believe, seldom or never played "truant with the Muse;" nor has she, I believe, ever essayed poetry since that period.

It is likewise curious that Sir Robert Ker Porter's earliest essays as an artist are to be met with in some of the designs for the plates of the *Pocket* and *Lady's Pocket Magazines*.

Before I conclude, I beg to remark that the Editor of *Chambers's Journal* has stated that these highly-gifted ladies "both reside under the roof of their excellent and venerable mother," whereas Miss Anna Maria Porter, died in 1832. The writer also erroneously places Miss Porter's abode "in the pleasant village of Exeter, in Surrey;" though it is well known that her residence has long been in the beautiful hamlet of Esher, in the aforesaid county. ENORT.

CURIOUS FACTS IN THE HISTORY OF BOOKS.

Ancient Plan.—Originally the letters in books were only divided into lines, then into separate words, which, by degrees, were noted with accents, and distributed, by points and stops, into periods, paragraphs, chapters, and other divisions. In some countries, as among the Orientals, the lines began from the right, and ran to the left; in others, as in northern and western nations, from the left to the right. In the Chinese books, the lines ran from top to bottom. The Grecians followed both directions alternately, going in the one, and returning in the other, called *boustrophedon*. The laws of Solon are said to have been thus written. The compound word *boustrophedon* is derived from the Greek, signifying *bullock* and *I turn*, like the furrows in ploughing.

Embellishments of red, gold, or figured initial letters, head-pieces, tail-pieces, effigies, &c., were formerly very common. The end of the book, now denoted by *finis*, was anciently marked with a ⊰, called *coronis*; and the whole frequently washed with an oil from cedar, or citron chips, strewed between the leaves, to preserve the book from rotting.

There also occur certain *formulæ* at the beginning and end of books, exhorting the reader to be courageous, and proceed to the following book: this was common among the Jews. The Mahometans place the name of God at the beginning of all their books, which cannot fail to procure them protection, on account of the infinite regard paid by them to that name, wherever found.

Burning of Books was a kind of punishment, both among the Greeks and Romans, by legal sentence.

At Athens, the works of Protagoras were prohibited; and all the copies of them which could be collected were burnt by the public cryer. At Rome, the writings of Numa, which had been found in his grave, were, by order of the senate, condemned to the fire, because they were contrary to the religion which he had introduced. During the reign of Augustus, twenty thousand volumes were burnt at one time: among these were the books of Labienus. Cassius Severus, a friend of Labienus, hearing the sentence pronounced, cried aloud, that they must burn him too, since he had got all the books by heart. Labienus could not survive his books; but, shutting himself up in the tomb of his ancestors, pined away, and was buried alive. It is related as somewhat singular, that a few years after, the writings of the person who had been the cause of the order for burning Labienus's books, shared the like fate, and were also publicly burnt. Antiochus Epiphanes caused the works of the Jews to be burnt. Eusebius informs us, that Diocle-sian caused the sacred Scriptures to be burnt. The writings of Arius were condemned to the flames at the council of Nice; and Constantine threatened with the punishment of death those who should conceal them. The clergy assembled at the council of Ephesus requested the emperor, Theodosius II., to cause the works of Nestorius to be burnt; and their request was complied with. Leo. I. ordered two hundred thousand books to be burnt at Constantinople.

In France, in 1790, above 4,194,412 books were burnt, which were in the suppressed monasteries. Two millions were on theology; the manuscripts were 26,000. In the city of Paris alone, 808,120 volumes were burnt.

Rarity.—At the beginning of the tenth century, books were so scarce in Spain, that one Bible often served several monasteries. The price of books was so high, that persons of moderate fortune could not afford to purchase them. In the year 1174, Walter, prior of St. Swithin's, at Winchester, purchased of the monks of Dorcester, Bede's Homilies and St. Austin's Psalter, for twelve measures of

barley and a pall, on which was embroidered in silver the history of St. Birinus converting a Saxon king. About the year 1225, Roger de Insula, Dean of York, gave several Latin Bibles to the University of Oxford, on condition that the students who perused them should deposit a cautionary pledge. In 1299, the Bishop of Winchester borrowed of his cathedral convent of St. Swithin, at Winchester, the Bible, with marginal notes, and gave a bond for the return of it, drawn up with great solemnity. For the bequest of this Bible to the convent, and 100 marks, the monks founded a daily mass for the soul of the donor. If any person gave a book to a religious house, he believed that so valuable a donation merited eternal salvation, and he offered it on the altar with great ceremony. The Prior and Convent of Rochester declared that they would every year pronounce the irrevocable sentence of damnation on him who should purloin or conceal a Latin translation of Aristotle's Poetics, or even obliterate the title. Sometimes a book was given to a monastery, on condition that the donor should have the use of it for his life. Before the year 1300, the library of the University of Oxford consisted only of a few tracts, chained or kept in chests, in the choir of St. Mary's Church. Among the Statutes of St. Mary's Church, in 1446, one is, that no scholar should occupy a book in the library above one hour, or two at most.

Curious Entry.—The *first* publication entered on the books of the Stationers' Company stands thus—

"To *William Pekerynge*, a ballett, called a Ryse and Wake, 0. 0. 4*d*." P. T. W.

The Naturalist.

NEW CURRANT.

A SPLENDID unit has lately been added to the list of hardy flowering shrubs. The plant is a species of the currant bush, most nearly allied to the black currant, which it resembles very closely, both in the form and smell of the leaves, and also in the general appearance of the plant—with this exception, that the flower petals of the new species are of a bright scarlet, and hang in gracefully sweeping clusters of from twenty to forty individual florets upon each.

The botanical name bestowed on this new variety is *Ribes Sanguinea*; and the English one, that of Scarlet-flowered currant. The fruit of it, from the description we have heard, is not likely to be of much value; but should the plant possess a disposition to cross with the other species, we need not despair of acquiring, in due time, a hybrid which will be not merely ornamental, but may vie in usefulness with any of the black, the red, the white, or the champagne varieties.

FERNANDO.

Anecdote Gallery.

BUONAPARTANIA.*

SOON after the First Consul's return to Malmaison, an individual, in most unpretending attire, solicited a private audience. He was instantly ushered into the cabinet of Napoleon, who demanded his name. "General," replied the solicitor, somewhat intimidated by his presence, "I had formerly the honour of giving you lessons in writing at the college of Brienne." "And a respectable penman you have made me," exclaimed the First Consul, interrupting him sharply; "your pupil's progress does you infinite credit!" Then, laughing at his own hastiness, he addressed the good man in a kinder tone, to make amends for his first sally, the abruptness of which had considerably augmented the timidity of the calligraphic professor. In a few days, the writing-master received from unquestionably the worst of all his former pupils at Brienne, (Napoleon's scarcely legible hand-writing was proverbial) a pension sufficient for his humble wants.

When Buonaparte was paying his court to Madame de Beauharnais, (says M. de Bourrienne,) neither of them kept a carriage, and he, being passionately in love, and a most assiduous suitor, escorted his intended about the town, and especially on her visits to her agents. They went one day together to the office of the notary Raguideau, who, by the by, was one of the smallest men I have ever seen. Madame de Beauharnais, who placed great confidence in Raguideau, had come to him that day expressly for the purpose of communicating her intention of accepting the hand of the young general of artillery, the protegé of Barras. Josephine was accordingly closeted along with the notary, while Buonaparte waited in the outer office, occupied with the clerks. The door of Raguideau's cabinet, however, not being shut close, the general overheard the lawyer dissuading Madame Beauharnais from the marriage she was about to contract. "You are very imprudent," said the notary; "you may have to repent this step as long as you live; it is madness to go and marry a man who has nothing but his sword to depend on." "Buonaparte," said Josephine, when she told me these prior circumstances, "had never alluded to this, and I had no idea that he had heard what Raguideau had said. Imagine my astonishment then, Bourrienne, when on the day of the coronation, as soon as he had put on the imperial robes, he said, 'Go, and find Raguideau, and bring him here immediately.' Raguideau soon made his appearance, and the Emperor said to him, 'Well, and have I nothing now but my sword to depend on?'" Eight years had elapsed since the scene at the office of the notary; and

* See also pages 294 and 342.

Buonaparte, although he had borne in mind the discourse of M. Raguideau, had never mentioned that he was privy to it, to a single soul, not even to De Bourrienne, at the time when he was in the habit of making his secretary the confidant and depositary of all his projects and secrets.

Napoleon was in the habit of amusing himself in walking about Paris incog., accompanied only by Marshal Duroc, both dressed in a blue riding coat, without any sort of decoration. Some curious adventure generally took place. One day they took a long round, and the Emperor being hungry, went into a coffee-house at the corner of the Boulevard, and ordered some cutlets and an omelet, which was his favourite repast. When they had finished, Duroc found that he had forgotten his purse, which created much embarrassment. The waiter, guessing the motive, told them that it made no difference, they might pay when they passed again. His mistress was much incensed at him for attempting to give credit to persons whom he did not know, exclaiming, "I shall lose eight francs." "No, madam," replied the waiter, "I will pay you their bill, as I am sure they are honest people." His mistress took the eight francs: on seeing which, the marshal drew out his watch, and offering it to the waiter, said, "My friend, keep this in pledge for what you have advanced, and I thank you also for the good opinion you have formed of us." The waiter, however, declined to take the watch, and the two ramblers departed. Several days passed, and the waiter heard nothing of his friends, while his mistress was continually bantering him for his folly. Five days after, the Emperor sent a valet to the coffee-house, who called for the waiter, and said to him, "There are twenty-five Napoleons, which the Emperor has sent to you, and has desired me to thank you for him, for having become his security, and paid for his breakfast.

Napoleon, one day hunting in the forest of Fontainbleau, alighted from his horse, and walked, accompanied by Caulaincourt. He met two wood-cutters, who, fatigued with work, were sitting on the trunk of a tree. Both of them had served in the campaign of Egypt. One of them recognised the Emperor, and rose instantly. Caulaincourt desired the other to rise also. "No," said Napoleon, "don't you see he is fatigued?" He then made the one who was standing resume his seat, and sat down with them himself on the same trunk. Here he conversed with them on the Egyptian expedition, and of their private affairs; and having learnt that one of them had not obtained his pension on quitting the service, he ordered it to be granted him, with the arrears, and gave six Napoleons to both, on leaving them.

W. G. C.

Retrospective Gleanings.

THE DUTCH.

[The following character of the Dutch, is given in *Three Weeks' Observations of the Low Countries*, by Owen Feltham, published in 1670: and stated in the preface to have been written some years prior to its appearing in print:]

Solomon tells of four things that are small and full of wisdom: the pismire, the grasshopper, the coney, and the spider.

For providence they are the pismires of the world, and having nothing but what grass affords them, are yet, for almost all provisions, the store-house of all Christendom. What is it which there may not be found in plenty? they making by their industry all the fruits of the vast earth their own. What land can boast a privilege that they do not partake of? They have not of their own enough materials to compile one ship, yet how many nations do they furnish? The remoter angles of the world do by their pains deliver them their sweets; and being themselves in want, their diligence hath made them both Indies nearer home.

They are frugal to the saving of egg-shells; and maintain it for a maxim, that a thing lasts longer mended than new.

Their cities are their mole-hills; their schutes and fly-boats creep and return with their store for winter. Every one is busy, and carries his grain; as if every city were a several hive, and the bees not permitting a drone to inhabit; for idle persons must find some other mansion. And lest necessity bereave men of means to set them on work, there are public banks, that (without use) lend upon pawns to all the poor that want.

There is a season when the pismires fly; and so each summer they likewise swarm abroad with their armies.

The ant, says one, is a wise creature, but a shrewd thing in a garden or orchard; and truly so are they; for they look upon others too little, and upon themselves too much: and wheresoever they light in a pleasant and rich soil, like suckers and lower plants, they rob from the root of that tree which gives them shade and protection; so their wisdom is not indeed heroic or numinal, as courting a universal good, but rather narrow and restrictive, as being a wisdom but for themselves: which, to speak plainly, is descending into craft; and is but the sinister part of that which is really noble and celestial. Nay, in all they hold so true a proportion with the emmet, as you shall not find they want so much as the sting.

For dwelling in rocks they are conies; and while the Spanish tumbler plays about them, they rest secure in their own inaccessible buries. Where have you under heaven,

such impregnable fortifications? Where art beautifies nature, and nature makes art invincible: herein indeed they differ; the conies find rocks, and they make them: for they raise them in the bosom of the waves. Where within these twenty years, ships furrowed in the pathless ocean, the peaceful plough now unbowels the fertile earth, which at night is carried home to the fairest mansions in Holland.

Every town hath its garrison, and the keys of the gates in the night time are not trusted but in the State-house. From these holds they bolt abroad for provisions, and then return to their fastnesses replenished.

For war they are grasshoppers, and without a king, go forth in bands to conquer kings. They have not only defended themselves at their own home, but have braved the Spaniard at his. In 1599, under the command of Vender Does, was the Grand Canary taken; the chief city sacked; the King of Spain's ensigns taken down, and the colours of his Excellency set up in their room. In 1600, the battle of Newport was a gallant piece, when with the loss of 1,000, or little more, they slew 7,000 of their enemies, took above 100 ensigns, the admiral of Arragon a prisoner, and the very furniture of the archduke's own chamber and cabinet; yea, the signet that belonged to his hand. In 1607, they assailed the armado of Spain in the bay of Gibraltar, as under covert of the castle and town's ordinance, and with the loss of 150, slew above 2,000, and ruined the whole fleet. Certainly a bolder attempt hath ever scarce been done. The Indian mastiff never was more fierce against the angry lion; nor can the cock in his crowing valour, become more prodigal of his blood than they.

There hardly is upon earth such a school of martial discipline. It is the Christian world's academy for arms; whither all the neighbour-nations resort to be instructed; where they may observe how unresistible a blow many small grains of powder will make, being heaped together, which yet if you separate, can do nothing but sparkle and die. Their recreation is the practice of arms; and they learn to be soldiers sooner than men; nay, as if they placed a religion in arms, every Sunday is concluded with the train-bands marching through their cities.

For industry they are spiders, and are in the palaces of kings. Of old they were the guard of the person of the Roman emperor; and by the Romans themselves declared to be their friends and companions. There is none have the like intelligence; their merchants are at this day the greatest of the universe. What nation is it where they have not insinuated? nay, which they have not almost anatomized, and even discovered the very intrinsic veins on it? Even among us, they shame us with their industry, which makes them seem as if they had a faculty from the world's creation, out of water to make dry land appear. They win our drowned grounds which we cannot recover, and chase back Neptune to his own old banks.

All that they do is by such labour as it seems extracted out of their own bowels; and in their wary thrift they hang by such a slender sustentation of life, that one would think their own weight should be enough to crack it. Want of idleness keeps them from want; and it is their diligence that makes them rich.

A fruitful soil increaseth the harvest; a plentiful sun augmenteth the store; and seasonable showers drop fatness on the crop we reap: but no rain fructifies more than the dew of sweat.

You would think, being with them, you were in old Israel, for you find not a beggar among them: nor are they mindful of their own alone; but strangers also partake of their care and bounty. If they will depart, they have money for their convoy; if they stay, they have work provided; if unable, they find an hospital. Their providence extends even from the prince to the catching of flies: and lest you lose an afternoon by fruitless mourning, by two of the clock all burials must end: wherein to prevent the waste of ground, they pile coffin upon coffin till the sepulchre be full.

In all their manufactures they hold a truth and constancy: for they are as fruits from trees, the same every year that they are at first; not apples one year and crabs the next; and so for ever after. In the sale of these they are also at a word, they will gain rather than exact, and have not that way whereby our citizens abuse the wise, and cozen the ignorant; and by their infinite over-asking for commodities, proclaim to the world that they would cheat if it were in their power.

The deprivation of manners they punish with contempt, but the defects of nature they favour with charity: even their bedlam is a place so curious, that a lord might live in it; their hospital might lodge a lady: so that safely you may conclude, amongst them, even poverty and madness do both inhabit handsomely: and though vice makes every thing turn sordid, yet the State will have the very correction of it to be neat, as if they would show, that though obedience fail, yet government must be still itself, and decent. To prove this, they that do but view their bridewell, will think it may receive a gentleman though a gallant; and so their prison, a wealthy citizen. But for a poor man it is his best policy to be laid there, for he that cast him in must maintain him.

Their language, though it differ from the higher Germans, yet hath it the same ground,

and is as old as Babel: and albeit harsh; yet so lofty and full a tongue, as made Goropius Becanus maintain it for the speech of Adam in his paradise: and surely if there were not other reasons against it, the significancy of the ancient Teutonic might carry it from the primest dialect. Steven of Bruges reckons up 2,170 monosyllables, which being compounded, how richly do they grace a tongue! A tongue, that for the general profession, is extended further than any that I know; through both the Germanies, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, and sometimes France, England and Spain. And still among us all our old words are Dutch, with yet so little change, that certainly it is in a manner the same that it was 2,000 years ago, without the too much mingled borrowings of their neighbour-nations. W. G. C.

GRACEFUL MEMBERS OF THE STATIONERS' COMPANY.

"In the second year of Elizabeth, (says Brayley,) the Stationers had the grant of a livery, and were directed "to prepare and make ready the same liverys with speed, so that they may from henceforth attend and wait upon the Lord Mayor of this city, at all the common shews," &c.

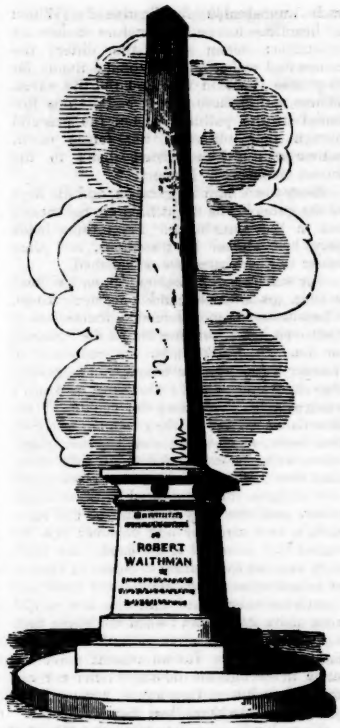
Thirty years afterwards, namely, in January, 1588–9, a precept was sent by the Lord Mayor, requiring the master and wardens, and six of the *comeliest* personages of the Company to attend him at the park corner above St. James's, on horseback, in velvet coats, chains of gold, and with staff torches, to wait on the Queen, "for the recreating of her Majesty" in the progress from Chelsea to Whitehall. Similar precepts for the attendance of the most "graceful" men of the Company have also since been directed to the master and wardens in different reigns.—P. T. W.

The Waithman Obelisk.

This is a testimonial to the public and private virtues of a London citizen. It is of plain, unembellished form; yet will any emblematic monument in Guildhall read a better lesson to posterity? Its representation is suited to the useful purposes of our pages —to perpetuate good example;—and, our acknowledgments are due to Mr. Elmes, the architect, for his promptitude in enabling us thus early to present our readers with the subjoined Engraving.

This monument will be placed, in a few days, in the middle of the roadway at the south end of Farringdon-street, opposite the monument, of somewhat similar design, to the memory of John Wilkes, at the north end of Bridge-street, Blackfriars.

The obelisk itself is a single block of Haytor granite, 20 feet in height; and that of the pedestal, &c., is 7½ feet, making the total height 27½ feet. In the cornice, on



the north and south sides, are sculptured the arms of Alderman Waithman; and on the east and west sides are the City arms. The south side bears the following inscription:—

ERECTED
TO THE MEMORY
OF
ROBERT
WAITHMAN,
BY
HIS FRIENDS AND
FELLOW CITIZENS.
MDCCCXXXIII.

It affords us much gratification to learn that men of all parties have contributed to this deserved memorial; and it may be interesting to add, that the obelisk will be placed but a few yards from the spot whereon Robert Waithman commenced his honourable and useful public life.

Alderman Waithman was, indeed, "the architect of his own fortune." He was born near Wrexham, North Wales, in 1764, of parents of virtuous character, but in humble life. His father died soon afterwards; and his mother re-marrying, Waithman, when an

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infant, was adopted by an uncle, a respectable linendraper, in Bath, and sent to the school of one Moore, an ingenious man, the economy of whose plan of education led all his pupils to acquire the habit of public and extemporaneous speaking. Mr. Waithman was afterwards taken into the business of his uncle; on whose death, about 1788, he obtained a situation at Reading, whence he proceeded to London, and lived with a respectable linendraper until he became of age. He then married, and opened a shop at the south end of Fleet Market, nearly on the precise site of the above monument. His activity and success next enabled him to remove to more extensive premises, at the corner of Bridge-street and Fleet-street, where he always honoured the high character of a London citizen and tradesman. He retired from business about ten years since. He appears to have commenced his political career in 1794; when, at a Common Hall, he submitted a series of resolutions upon the war with France, and enforcing the necessity of a reform in parliament; which resolutions were triumphantly carried, and laid the foundation of his popularity. He was next elected into the Common Council, where the speeches, resolutions, petitions and addresses, which he moved and carried, would fill a considerable volume. His friends, and his own well-directed ambition, next prompted him to seek to represent the city of London in parliament; but his efforts were unsuccessful, till, at the general election of 1818, he was returned by a great majority, having polled 4,603 votes. He next became alderman of his ward, Farringdon Without, the most considerable in the city. At the general election, in 1820, he lost his seat by 140 votes. In the same year he served as Sheriff of London and Middlesex, with activity and intelligence; as he filled the office of Lord Mayor in 1823-24. At the elections in 1826, 1830, 1831, and the present year, he was again returned for the City; but ill health prevented him taking his seat in the present parliament; and he died in February last.

A glance at these few data of the Alderman's useful life will bear out the proposition that he was "the architect of his own fortune." He owed nothing to Court or even City patronage; but, even amidst the turmoil of a political life, he accumulated a respectable fortune; for, it should be remembered that he became an active politician forty years since, or within ten years after he had established himself in business. He was a man of unflinching integrity and untiring industry—qualities which make their possessor rich indeed. As an orator, he was characterized rather by fluency than finery of language: he prefered common to fine sense, and his experience in matters of the great stage of the world was very considerable. He represented himself in early life to have possessed some inclination for theatrical pursuits; and we once heard him state, in private company, that he had been often solicited by his friends to play the character of *Macbeth*, which he had studied.

To conclude, we regard the setting up of this testimonial, comparatively as honourable to Alderman Waithman's friends and admirers, as it is to his memory: he was one of the honourables of the land, and his good example should be daily kept before us.

The Public Journals.

THE NEW CUT, ISLINGTON, AND PENTONVILLE.

(*From Four Views of London, in the New Monthly Magazine.*)

A VISITER to London who has not seen what is called the New Cut has not looked upon one of the most characteristic bits of the metropolis. The place is unique, and only wants antique-looking houses with gable roofs, jutting stories, and dangling signs, to be the most picturesque of spots. It is almost one shop from its east end to its west end: nothing English reminds you so much of Vanity Fair; and it has as many booths, where you will find all things needful and unneedful, laid out on the pathway-side to tempt you—books, prints, tools, instruments, knick-knacks of all kinds; portraits so numerous, and embracing so great a variety of faces, that any man might pick out a companion pair of his grandfather and grandmother; pocket-handkerchiefs which you could almost swear were once your property, and impulsively and innocently you look at the initial corners, but they are now illiterate; indeed, if you have lost any article lately, visit this spot, and ten to one but you can repurchase it at half the price you first gave for it. Here, too, are all sorts of eatables:—pickle-pork that *may be* pickled Perkins, it looks so like salted and soddened humanity; oysters gape at you with open mouths; and fish that have long forgotten all maritime matters—it is so long since they have left the sea, stare on you with glazed eyes. The New Cut-ians seem abandoned to such sensualities as plum-pudding—the plums so "few and far between" that they are indeed "like angels' visits;" and "baked potatoes, all hot:" at every corner you meet with a Smith or Jones blowing this baked delicacy "with bated breath and whispered" wishes that it would cool down to the eating point; another is seen shifting the smoking viand from hand to hand, partly to reduce its heat, and partly to warm his fingers. Sausages frying and frizzing; trotters, pickled and fresh; stewed eels and pickled ditto; herrings, red and soused; black puddings and tawny polonies; pigs' ears and pettitoes; cakes infinite, bulls' eyes, lollipops, hardbake, comfits, roast apples,

baked pears, and Buonaparte's ribs, salute your nose and eyes at every step. One would think the entire population were wholly employed in eating, drinking, and sucking sweetmeats from the rising of the sun to the going down thereof; but there is plenty of business going on besides: gin-shops abound; the by-streets are all alive with the hangers-on upon society—for here, too, are hundreds of loungers against wall and post, in sea-jackets, never yet wetted with the salt spray—all with idle hands in their pockets, waiting only for the opportunity to be more industriously employed in the pockets of others. This entire neighbourhood needs a moral scouring; but who will handle the scrubbing brush?

We will now pass to Paddington: an omnibus will trundle and rumble and jerk and jar your bones there "for the small charge of sixpence;" and you never yet was in one. Do you not hear? You are asked by that mongrel-military man with a dragoon cap, he who hangs by the door-handle, "If you are going down?" Yes, you are; then go like a gentleman; there are only thirty insides, all decent clerks, fagged and harmless, and going home to their tea: what have you to fear? * * * Islington has much of the look of a country town, with its trees here and there, and its green, which is so, and its shops, showy, small, but genteel. The arrival of the several northern mails in the evening gives its high-street an especial bustle and picturesqueness: it is besides the grand outlet and inlet of all the north-going and coming coaches; and here are first dropped, on their arrival at the margin of the metropolis, all sorts of English foreigners—Sandies in plaid cloaks; Dandy Dinmonts from Yorkshire, on graziering expeditions; and Manchester Nicol Jarvies in woollen waistcoats, and worsted stockings an inch thick of web.

Never mind Pentonville: it is not now what it was,—a place of some rural beauty;—the fields behind it *were*, in my time, as wild and picturesque,—with their deep green lanes, richly hedged and studded with flowers which have taken fright, and moved off miles away—their stately "elms and hillocks green," as they are now melancholy and cut up with unfinished and of course unoccupied rows of houses, run up during the paroxysm of the brick and mortar mania of times past, and now tumbling in ruin, with the foolish fortunes of the speculators. The march of town-innovation upon the suburbs has driven before it all that was green, silent, and fitted for meditation. Here, too, is that Paradise of apprentice boys, White *Cundick Couse*, as it is cacophoniously pronounced by its visiters, which has done much to expel the decencies of the district. Thirty years ago this place was better frequented—that is, there was a larger number of respectable adults—fathers and mothers, with their children, and a smaller moiety of shop-lads and such like Sunday bucks, who were awed into decency by their elders. The manners, perhaps, are much upon a *par* with what they were. The ball-room gentlemen then went through country-dances with their hats on and their coats off;—hats are now taken off, but coats are still unfashionable on these gala nights. The belles of that day wore long trains to their gowns: it was a favourite mode of introduction to a lady there, to tread on it, and then apologizing handsomely, acquaintance was begun, and soon ripened into an invitation to tea and the hot loaves for which these gardens were once celebrated. Being now a popular haunt, those who hang on the rear of the march of human nature, the suttlers, camp followers, and plunderers, know that where large numbers of men or boys are in pursuit of pleasure, there is a sprinkling of the number to whom vice and debauchery are ever welcome: they have, therefore, supplied what these wanted; and Pentonville may now hold up its head, and boast of its depravities before any other part of London. Get in, then, and descending the hill, you will find yourself at Battle-bridge, among a people as characteristic and looking as local as if the spot had been made for them, and they for the spot. At a glance you will perceive what are the distinctions which make the difference between them and the population you have just passed through. It is the grand centre of dustmen, scavengers, horse and dog-dealers, knackermen, brick-makers, and other low but necessary professionalists. The neighbourhood is, however, improving, and its poorer dwellers are getting gradually pushed farther into the background—out of sight, but not out of reach of another faculty, if you have a nose with its sense unimpaired.

Bump—thump—thump—bumb!—Well, this may, by latitude of expression, be called riding, but I should call it omnibus ill-usage,—the apothecary's direction with variations—"when taken" to Paddington "to be well shaken." Mr. Shillibeer might very properly be charged with "pitching and tossing in the public streets." I never heartily liked the French, and now I like them less for inventing these Leviathans of the highway. But how should Frenchmen know anything about creature and especially carriage comforts!—Here we are, in all six and twenty sweating citizens, jammed, crammed, and squeezed into each other like too many peas in one pod, or an African's toes in the shoe of a Chinese. I feel that I shall bear the impression of the six brass buttons of the blue coat with a plethoric somebody in it for a month to come. Phew! pish! pooh!—how hot it is. Mr. Conductor, do let me out, for

if this is "the way" all the way to Paddington, why then farewell for ever to that Ultima Thule of sprawling London, for I shall never reach it.—Thank heaven! we are on the firm earth again!....No, yes—oh Shakspeare and the Nine! what have we here?—The Royal Clarence Theatre, and Shakspeare's noblest play, "Hamlet," and the part of the melancholy Prince by a "star" from the east.—Here be refinements for you! —Where, ten years since—"nay, not so much"—stood that sublime, sifted wonder of cockneys, the cloud-kissing dust-heap, which sold for twenty thousand pounds, stands now a little structure, large enough for the mighty mind of Shakspeare to speak within its walls, and where no doubt you may, if you have no vulgar prejudice against what is good because it is humbly placed, hear him discourse "most eloquent music." Come, this is better than bumping one's way to Paddington! I'll enter....The interior is somewhat fantastic, but light, and pretty too; and respectably filled with Battle-bridge beaux and belles, and not a dustman that I can see. I shall be very comfortable. "A bill of the play, Ma'am—thank you—a penny?"—The curtain rises—"FRANCISCO *on his post. Enter to him* BERNARDO."....A very respectable performance throughout, and the *Hamlet* Shakspearian and excellent. So much for a day's ramble in London.

ORIGIN OF HERALDRY IN ENGLAND.

WHAT are now called heraldic insignia began with the Crusades, in which it became necessary to distinguish the troops, not only of one nation, but of one chief from another; and this was done by such arbitrary marks on their shields, helmets, coats, banners, and pennons, which soon became hereditary, and separated one family from another. All these early coats had allusions to the symbols and instruments of courage and war; and more especially to the war in which Europe was then engaged. Thus the first and most honourable badge was the *cross*. Then came lions, leopards, eagles, wolves, griffins, pales, piles, bars, bends chevrons, escallop shells, frets, cinquefoils, checks, stars, annulets, lozenges, muscles, torteauxes, manders, martlets, fleurs-de-lis, carbles, horse-shoes, swords, gauntlets, ermine, stags, water-bouquets, pheons' heads, arrows, &c. &c.

To prevent the confusion of different families assuming the same coat was the business of the earl-marshal who had the arrangement of the field of battle; and this office soon became hereditary in the great family of Mowbray, from whom it passed by marriage to the Howards, with whom it continues to this day. And hence the Court of Chivalry, and the College of Arms, to register arms and pedigrees; which last was not incorporated till about the time of Edward IV.

From these causes it will necessarily follow, that such distinctive hereditary badges were highly and justly valued by families. When they returned from the wars to their castles and manor-houses, they hung up their blazoned shields and banners, and their crested helmets, in their halls, in their churches, and over their tombs, sculptured them on their gateways and walls, and had them painted in the glass windows both of their castles and their chapels; so that they became not only the ornaments of the fortress which frowned with war, but of the house of religion and peace, and waved over the silence of the grave. There cannot be a doubt that these gorgeous appearances had an influence over the imaginations of the lower orders, and aided authority and subordination. The banners of those who could fairly, and by tradition fixed in the minds of people, go up to the Crusades, were especially respected: the checks of Warren; the horse-shoes of Ferrers; the crosses of De Burgh and Neville; the quarterly and black bend of Lacy and Clavering; the cross of Vesci; the blue bars of Grey; the blue lion of Percy; the torteauxes of Courtenay; the manch of Hastings; the checks and fess of Clifford; the bars and torteauxes of Wake; the bendlets of Byron; the crow of Corbet; the cinquefoil of Astley; the fess and martlets, or crosses, of Berkeley; the gold lion of Talbot; the escalops of Malet; the bars nebules of Blount; the bars wavy of Basset; the chevronels of Clare; the lion of Mowbray; the quarterly and star of Vere; the ten bars of Mortimer; the bend and lions of Bohun; the chevron of Stafford; the fret of Audley; the water-bouquets of Roos; the fess lozenges of Montagu; the quarterly, the fret, and the bend of De Spenser; the chief of Clinton; the quarterly and bend vaire of Sackville; the lance-restes of Granville; the eagles of De Courcy; the saltier of Fitzgerald; the chief of Butler; the pile of Chandos; the bars of Burdett; the chevrons of Tyrell; the black cross of Mohun; the lions of Strange; the pheon's head of Egerton; the six lions of Lonspé; the chevron and houets of Cobham; the three cinquefoils of Bardolf, &c. &c. &c.; —all these were of a venerable and primary origin.

The feudal tenures were of a nature to render necessary public records, which furnished documents of the highest degree of certainty, to ascertain the pedigrees of those who derived their inheritances by military tenure. These Mr. Grimaldi's *Origines Genealogicæ* sets out in a most clear and useful manner. But the early heralds, in their laziness or ignorance, made little use of such previous documents: their pedigrees are bare, vague, unvouched, and undated. They ought to have consulted the memorials of castles, halls, churches, tombs, deeds,

records, and monastic obituaries. All ancient coats must necessarily have stood only on prescription; heralds could not sell coats—a patent of arms was comparatively a modern invention. We believe no patent goes back beyond Henry VI.

The first herald who seemed to have searched records was Robert Glover, Somerset-herald in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, and whose MS. collections are still held in great estimation. Then came Camden, garter-king, a learned antiquary and eloquent classical scholar, as his *Britannia* amply testifies. His carping opponent was Rafe Brook, a disappointed herald, of minute mind and malignant temper; criticised in his turn by Vincent, another herald, of better character, whose life has been lately given by Sir Harris Nicolas. And now came the most learned, laborious, and deep researcher in this class of antiquities, the celebrated Sir William Dugdale, who first wrote his famous *History of Warwickshire*, and then, with the aid of Roger Dodswell, compiled the great work, the *Monasticon Anglicanum*. He then compiled the *Baronage of England;* a work of stupendous toil and great excellence, but dull, uncouth, and not always exact. We may here mention Sir Edward Byshe, garter-king, who edited, with learned annotations, *Upton de Re Militari;* but he afterwards deturpated, and became idle, dissipated, and reckless. See his character given by Anthony Wood, in his *Autobiography*. Elias Ashmole was a learned man, but superstitious, and given to astrology; his *History of the Order of the Garter* is still esteemed. He published *Church-notes of Berkshire*, and there records the story of the murder of the Countess of Leicester, wife of Robert Dudley, at Cumnor. At the commencement of the last century, John Anstis was garter; and also published a *History of the Early Knights of the Garter* and a *Treatise on the Court of Chivalry*. He was industrious and exact, but insufferably dry. William Oldys was a *litterateur* of extraordinary merit: he was an admirable bibliographer in old English literature, and especially poetry. He gave a learned life of Sir Walter Raleigh, prefixed to a folio collection of his works. Warburton the herald was a great collector, and dabbler in many parts of literature; but quarrelled with his brother heralds. He was, we believe, great-uncle to the present M. P. of that name. Joseph Edmundson was, according to rumour, a bastard of Sir Joseph Ayloffe, an ancient baronet, to whom is attributed the historical discourse on arms prefixed to vol. i. of Edmundson's *Dictionary of Arms*. We ought, however, to have mentioned in its place, Gwillim's *Heraldry*, a book once very popular.

Sir Henry Spelman's *Aspilogia* is a learned work; and one of the most curious works on heraldry is *Sigilla Comitum Flandriæ*, by Uredius (Wrede, a Fleming). The topographical histories of counties are a fund of information on this subject; such as Lambarl's *Perambulation of Kent;* Burton's *Leicestershire;* Philipot's *Villare Cantianum;* Dugdale's *Warwickshire;* Chauncy's *Hertfordshire;* Atkyns's *Gloucestershire;* and numerous modern works: of all which Gough has given an account in his *Anecdotes of British Topography*. But Gough's superb work on sepulchral monuments is the most luminous and certain guide as to the usage of arms on tombs. In Scotland there are good works on heraldry, especially those by Nisbet. About 1794, there appeared in the *Gentleman's Magazine* a biographical list of all the English writers on heraldry, with characters; and about the same time, Dallaway's quarto volume on heraldry was published, to which was annexed a life of Gregory King, the herald and political arithmetician. Arthur Collins began the first of his numerous editions of the peerage about 1709; and he also gave a very full and good work of the families of baronets, about 1740; of which, however, two volumes were commenced in a former edition in 1720. Mr. Lodge is the only herald who has united biographical genius and elegant composition with genealogical research. His *Notes to the Illustrations of History*, and his *Memoirs*, both of the Holbein heads and the Illustrious Portraits, are admirable.—*Fraser's Mag.*

Notes of a Reader.

FIGHTING BIRDS.

Ruffs are so addicted to fighting, that the feeders are obliged to shut them up in a dark room, for they attack one another the moment the light is admitted, and never desist till most of them are exterminated. We do not find that ruffs are ever made to exhibit their pugnacious disposition by way of amusement, as some other polygamous birds are, though it would appear they might be thus exhibited. We are told that Solon, the Athenian lawgiver, directed that quails should be made to fight in the presence of the youths of the state, with a view to inflame their courage. The Romans, it would appear, held quail-fighting in still higher estimation, as we may infer from the circumstance of Augustus punishing a prefect of Egypt with death, for buying and bringing to table a quail which had acquired celebrity by its victories. Even at present this sort of amusement is common in some cities of Italy, and still more among the Chinese. In Italy they give two quails high feeding, and then place them opposite each other, at the ends of a long table, and throw between them a few grains of millet seed, as a ground

of quarrel. At first they show a threatening aspect, and then rush on with great impetuosity, striking with their bills, erecting their heads, and rising upon their spurs, till one is forced to yield. Formerly, combats were performed between a quail and a man, the bird being put into a large box, and set in the middle of a circle traced on the floor. The man commenced the assault by striking it on the head with his finger, or plucking out some of its feathers; and if the quail, in defending itself, did not pass the limits of the circle, its master gained the wager that had been previously laid. If, again, through the fury of passion, it transgressed upon the space beyond the circle, its antagonist was declared the victor; and such quails as repeatedly won prizes in this manner were sold for high sums.*

The most common battles, however, of this sort are between game-cocks, man having learnt to set into action for his amusement the jealous rivalry of these polygamous birds. "A lover of cock-fighting," says Mr. Payne Knight, "would think it very strange to be told that he condemned his own taste for so heroic a diversion, by expressing a dislike to see cocks killed in a poulterer's yard; and the frequenters of bull-baiting in England, or of bull-feasts in Spain, would by no means allow that a butcher's slaughter-house could afford them equal or similar amusement. To render such spectacles interesting, there must be a display of courage, vigour, and address: for it is by sympathizing with the energetic passions that the spectators are amused or delighted; and though the energies of passive fortitude might have been displayed by the victims of superstition, as well as by those of justice or injustice, they must, nevertheless, have been very flat and insipid, compared with those which shone forth in the varied and animated contests of the amphitheatre, where the contention was equal, and life and honour the prize contended for."†

Marsden informs us, that in the island of Sumatra the passion for cock-fighting is so great, that it is rather a serious occupation among the inhabitants than an amusement. A man in that country is rarely met travelling without a cock under his arm; and sometimes there will be fifty persons in company with their cocks. They often risk everything upon the event of a battle, even their wives and daughters; and the loser is frequently stripped of his goods and reduced to despair. We need not, however, be surprised at this, since, even in our own country, men of all ranks may be found at cock-pits, dividing into parties, taking intense interest in the fortune of a particular cock, and staking extravagant sums upon the issue. The mode of fighting is considerably varied in different countries, the birds being variously trained, and armed with offensive and defensive armour. The Athenians, as Ælian records instituted a festival, which was celebrated by cock-fighting, in memory of a victory gained over the Persians by Themistocles, who, upon observing his troops dispirited at the commencement of the battle, pointed to two cocks that were fighting: "See," said he, "the unshaken courage of these animals; yet they have no other motive than the love of victory; while you fight for your household gods, the tombs of your fathers, and your liberty." Inspired by this appeal, they rushed upon their foes, and were triumphant.

Habits of Birds.—Lib. Ent. Knowl.

* Julius Pollux, De Ludis, lib. ix.
† Principles of Taste, p. 33, 4th edit.

SHIPWRECK OF PRINCE HENRY, IN 1120.*

Many shipwrecks have been attended with far greater loss of lives, and with far more dreadful circumstances; but none can ever have produced so general an emotion in this country, nor has any single event ever been the occasion here of so much national suffering, as this, which opened the way for Stephen's usurpation.

After a successful campain in France, happily concluded through the pope's mediation by a peace, Henry embarked from Barfleur for England, with this his only legitimate son, then recently married, and in his seventeenth year. One of the finest vessels in the fleet was a galley of fifty oars, called "The White Ship," and commanded by a certain Thomas Fitzstephens, whose grandfather had carried over the Conqueror when he invaded the kingdom which he won. Upon this ground Fitzstephens solicited the honour of now conveying the king, upon an occasion as much more joyful as it was less momentous. Henry was pleased with a request preferred for such a motive; and, though having chosen a vessel for himself, he did not think proper to alter his own arrangements, he left prince William, with the rest of his family, and their friends and attendants, to take their passage in the White Ship; and embarking towards evening on the 25th of November, in fair weather, he sailed for England. There were with the prince his natural brother Richard, and their sister the lady Marie* countess of Perch, Richard earl of Chester with his wife, who was the king's niece, and her brother the prince's governor, and the flower of the young nobility both of Normandy† and England, 140 in number, eighteen being women of the first rank: these and their retinues amounting, with the

* The Countess Notha. Fabyan calls her, apparently mistaking for her real name a word that denotes her illegitimacy.
† "Pene tota propago omnium nobilium, Normannorum," are the abbot of Coggeshale's words in his Chronicle. Martene et Durand, Vet. Script, Ampleg. Coll. tom. v. 805.

crew, to about 300 persons. The prince, being detained a little after his father, imprudently ordered three casks of wine to be distributed among the men; and the captain, as well as the sailors, drank, in the joy of his heart, too freely, and promised to overtake every ship that had sailed before them. Accordingly he hoisted all sail, and plied all oars. The evening had closed before they started, but it was bright moonlight; the men exerted themselves under all the excitement of hilarity, and pride, and emulation, dreaming of no danger; the captain and the helmsman, under the same excitement, were unmindful of any; and when the ship was going through the water with all the stress of oars and sails, she struck upon a rock, called the *Catte-raze*, with such violence, that several planks were started, and she instantly began to fill. A boat was immediately lowered, and the prince was escaping in it,—which he might easily have done, for the shore was at no great distance,—when his sister, whom there had been no time to take off, or who in the horror of the moment had been forgotten, shrieked out to him to save her. It was better to die than turn a deaf ear to that call: he ordered the boat to put back and take her in; but such numbers leapt into it at the same time, that the boat was swamped, and all perished.* The ship also presently went down with all on board: only two persons, the one a young noble, son of Gilbert de Aquila, the other a butcher of Rouen, saved themselves: by climbing the mast, and clinging to the top, they kept their heads above water. Fitzstephens rose after the vessel had sunk, and might have taken the same chance of preservation; but calling to mind, after the first instinctive effort, that he had been the unhappy occasion of this great calamity, and dreading the reproaches, and perhaps the punishment that awaited him, he preferred present death as the least evil. The youth became exhausted during the night; and commending his poor companion to God's mercy with his last words, he lost his hold, and sunk. The butcher held on till morning, when he was seen from the shore and saved; and from him, being the only survivor, the circumstances of the tragedy were learnt. The tidings reached England in the course of that day; but no one would communicate it to the king; no one, not even those who had lost dear connexions of their own by the same awful event, could bear to witness the first emotions of his grief. Three days they persisted in thus concealing it, till the king's anxiety being at length well nigh as painful as the certainty could be, a little boy was then sent in, who weeping bitterly, with no counterfeited passion, fell at his feet, and told him, that the White Ship, with all on board, was lost. The king, strong as he was in body and in mind, and in heart also, fainted at the shock; and though he survived it many years, he was never afterwards seen to smile.†—*Southey's Naval History.*

* "Which sudden clap of God's judgment, coming in a calm of glory, when all these bustlings seemed passed over, might make a conscience shrink with terror, to see oppression and supplantation repaid with the extinction of that for which so much had been wrought; and the line masculine of Normandy expired in the third inheritor, as if to begin the fate laid on all the future succession hitherunto, wherein the third heir in a right descent seldom or never enjoyed the crown of England; but that, either by usurpation or extinction of the male blood, it received an alteration: which may teach princes to observe the ways of righteousness, and let men alone with their rights, and God with his providence."—*Dan.* 65.

† William of Malmesbury, 518. Holinshed, ii. 70. Lyttelton, Henry II. (8vo.) i. 198. Henry, iii. 48-50, Turner, i. 188-191.

ANCIENT COUNTRY GENTLEMEN OF ENGLAND.

Old Harry Hastings of Woodlands, whose character was drawn so lively by the first Lord Shaftesbury, is the most curious specimen of the life of a country gentleman in Charles the First's time. Harry Fielding is supposed to have given the portrait of one in the reign of George II., in the character of Squire Western, in *Tom Jones;* but, however amusing, it is an exaggeration, which tends to mislead. It throws ridicule on manners and habits, which were not so ignorant and absurd. We well knew many squires, the vigour of whose life had passed at that time, and we never saw an instance of any such uncouth and rude humours. Harry Fielding, with all his wit and cleverness, and all his high birth (which was not only noble, but of the male line of the imperial house of Hapsburg), was innately low-lived. See Gray's remarks on him, and Horace Walpole's.

While we sincerely praise the country life of the old squire, we have not forgotten the humorous lines of Hall Stevenson, in his *Crazy Tales:*

> "A country dog, I think,
> Is very like a country squire:
> They both are only fit to sleep and stink
> By their own fire.
> In short, they never are so entertaining
> As when they're fast asleep or feigning."

The seed-plot of the families of ancient gentry is in Cheshire—perhaps in consequence of its remoteness from the metropolis.

Fraser's Magazine.

THE SOLAR SYSTEM.

The following is an illustration calculated to convey to the minds of our readers a general impression of the relative magnitudes and distances of the parts of our system. Choose any well levelled field or bowling green. On it place a globe, two feet in diameter; this will represent the Sun; Mercury will be represented by a grain of mustard seed, on the

circumference of a circle 164 feet in diameter for its orbit; Venus a pea, on a circle 284 feet in diameter; the Earth also a pea, on a circle of 430 feet; Mars a rather large pin's head, on a circle of 654 feet; Juno, Ceres, Vesta, and Pallas, grains of sand, in orbits of from 1000 to 1200 feet; Jupiter a moderate sized orange, in a circle nearly half a mile across; Saturn a small orange, on a circle of four-fifths of a mile; and Uranus a full sized cherry, or small plum, upon the circumference of a circle more than a mile and a half in diameter. As to getting correct notions on this subject by drawing circles on paper, or, still worse, from those very childish toys called orreries, it is out of the question. To imitate the motions of the planets, in the above mentioned orbits, Mercury must describe its own diameter in 41 seconds; Venus, in 4m 14s; the Earth, in 7 minutes; Mars, in 4m 48s; Jupiter, in 2h 56m; Saturn, in 3h 13m; and Uranus, in 2h 16m.—*Sir. J. Herschel on Astronomy.*

LUNAR CLIMATE.

The moon has no clouds, nor any other indications of an atmosphere. Hence its climate must be very extraordinary; the alternation being that of unmitigated and burning sunshine fiercer than an equatorial noon, continued for a whole fortnight, and the keenest severity of frost, far exceeding that of our polar winters, for an equal time. Such a disposition of things must produce a constant transfer of whatever moisture may exist on its surface, from the point beneath the sun to that opposite, by distillation *in vacuo* after the manner of the little instrument called a *cryophorus*. The consequence must be absolute aridity below the vertical sun, constant accretion of hoar frost in the opposite region, and, perhaps, a narrower zone of running water at the borders of the enlightened hemisphere. It is possible, then, that evaporation on the one hand, and condensation on the other, may to a certain extent preserve an equilibrium of temperature, and mitigate the extreme severity of both climates.—*Ibid.*

DIMENSIONS OF COMETS.

The calculation of the diameters of their heads, and the lengths and breadths of their tails, offers not the slightest difficulty when once the elements of their orbits are known, for by these we know their real distances from the earth at any time, and the true direction of the tail, which we see only foreshortened. Now calculations instituted on these principles lead to the surprising fact, that the comets are by far the most voluminous bodies in our system. The following are the dimensions of some of those which have been made the subjects of such inquiry. The tail of the great comet of 1680, immediately after its perihelion passage, was found by Newton to have been no less than 20000000 of leagues in length, and to have occupied only two days in its emission from the comet's body! a decisive proof this of its being darted forth by some active force, the origin of which, to judge from the direction of the tail, must be sought in the sun itself. Its greatest length amounted to 41000000 leagues, a length much exceeding the whole interval between the sun and earth. The tail of the comet of 1769 extended 16000000 leagues, and that of the great comet of 1811, 36000000. The portion of the head of this last comprised within the transparent atmospheric envelope which separated it from the tail was 180000 leagues in diameter. It is hardly conceivable that matter once projected to such enormous distances should ever be collected again by the feeble attraction of such a body as a comet—a consideration which accounts for the rapid progressive diminution of the tails of such as have been frequently observed.—*Ibid.*

ENORMOUS DISTANCES OF THE STARS.

In the proportion of 200000 to 1, *at least* must the distance of the nearest fixed star from the sun exceed that of the sun from the earth. The latter distance, exceeds the earth's radius in the proportion of 24000 to 1; and, lastly, to descend to ordinary standards, the earth's radius is 4000 of our miles. The distance of the nearest star, then, *cannot be so small* as 4800000000 radii of the earth, or 19,200,000,000,000 miles! How much larger it may be, we know not.

The only mode we have of conceiving such intervals at all is by the time which it would require for light to traverse them. Now light, as we know, travels at the rate of 192000 miles per second. It would, therefore, occupy 100000000 seconds, or upwards of three years, in such a journey, at the very lowest estimate. What, then, are we to allow for the distance of those innumerable stars of the smaller magnitudes, which the telescope discloses to us! If we admit the light of a star of each magnitude to be half that of the magnitude next above it, it will follow that a star of the first magnitude will require to be removed to 362 times its distance to appear no larger than one of the sixteenth. It follows, therefore, that among the countless multitude of such stars, visible in telescopes, there must be many whose light has taken at least a thousand years to reach us; and that when we observe their places, and note their changes, we are, in fact, reading only their history of a thousand years' date, thus wonderfully recorded.—*Ibid.*

The Gatherer.

The late Mr. Kean.—In the second year of his London triumph, an elderly lady, whose sympathy had been excited by his forlorn condition in boyhood, but who had lost sight of him in his wanderings till his sudden starting into fame astonished the world, was induced, on renewing their acquaintance, to pay a visit of some days to him and Mrs. Kean, at their residence in Clarges-street. She made no secret of her intention to evince the interest she felt in his welfare, by a considerable bequest in her will; but, on accompanying Mrs. K. to the theatre to see him perform *Luke*, she was so appalled by the cold-blooded villany of the character, that, attributing the skill of the actor to the inherent possession of the fiend-like attributes he so consummately embodied, her regard was turned into suspicion and distrust. She left London the next day, and dying soon afterwards, it appeared that she had even altered the testamentary disposition of her property, which had once been made in his favour, and bequeathed the sum originally destined for him to a distant relative, of whom she knew nothing but by name.
Fraser's Magazine.

Old and Modern England. — There is nothing now to keep alive the energies of the people: it is all hopeless and unbroken poverty. The splendour of the rich is only for themselves: there are no halls of hospitality, no feasts for the poor, no common dancing and music, no songs and minstrels, no Christmas carols, no pomp of arms, and banners, and tilts, and tournaments; much luxury, but no plenty; much pomp, but no solidity.—*Fraser's Magazine.*

Epigrams from the Greek.

A fool one night
Put out the light
Being bit by many fleas,
"For now," says he,
"You won't see me,
And I shall sleep at ease."

Phidon, the miser, weeps,—for why?
'Tis not because he soon will die
But that his coffin, horrid thought!
For twice two minæ he has bought.

You dye your locks, Nicyllas, some do cry,
I know 'tis false, for them I saw you buy.

Homer so well does Troy's sad fate relate,
That other cities envy the same fate.—S. W. A.

The Lion.—A Hottentot perceiving that he was followed by a lion, and concluding that the animal only waited the approach of night to make him his prey, began to consider of the best method to provide for his safety, which he at length effected in the following singular manner: observing a piece of broken ground, with a precipitate descent on one side, he sat down by the edge of it, and found to his great joy, that the lion also made a halt, and kept at the same distance as before. As soon as it grew dark, the Hottentot, sliding gently forward, let himself down a little below the edge of the hill, and held up his cloak and hat upon a stick, making at the same time a gentle motion with it; the lion, in the meanwhile, came creeping softly towards him, like a cat; and mistaking the skin cloak for the man himself, made a spring and fell headlong down the precipice—*Wood's Zoography.*

Dutch Parsimony.—A German clergyman, who lately travelled in Holland and England for the purpose of raising contributions for the support of his impoverished church, relates the following characteristic anecdote: a Dutch merchant very readily presented him with fifty florins; but, perceiving that he at the same time cast a rueful glance at the canvass bag which contained the money, the clergyman said, "I shall send you the bag back again." "I thank you sincerely," said the Hollander, with a smile of satisfaction; "do so, if you please; bags are very scarce."
FERNANDO.

Epitaphs—from an ancient manuscript in the British Museum.

"In the Cathedrall Churche of St. Paule, in London, a stone is inscribed thus, without a name—

Non nominem aspiciam
ultra
OBLIVIO.

"This man wouide nott willingly have forgotten, when he adjoyned his armes, to continew his memorye.

"Another lykewyse suppressing his name, for his epitaphe did sett downe this goodly admonition—

Looke man before thee, how thy death hastethe;
Looke man behind thee, how thy lyfe wastethe;
Looke on thy right side, how death thee desirethe;
Looke on thy lefte side, how synne thee beguylethe;
Looke man above thee, the joys that ever shall taste;
Looke man beneathe thee, the paynes without reste."
W. G. C.

The dome of the Pantheon, at Rome, has always been open at top, and yet has remained unimpaired for nearly 2,000 years.

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